Effects of different equations of state on interior structure models of exoplanets

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HP4 workshop 10.10.2018

DFG Priority Programme 1992
Exploring the Diversity of Extrasolar Planets

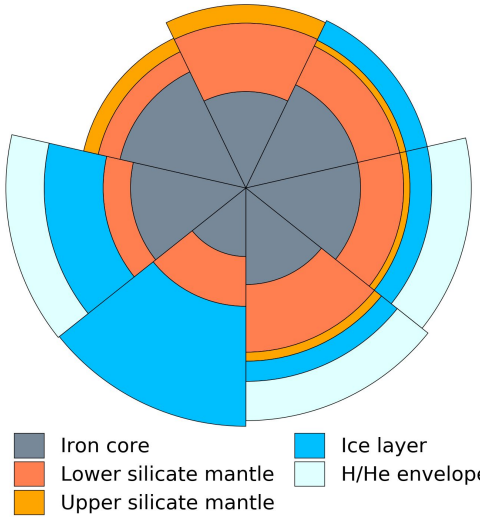
Technische Universität Berlin

DLR

Exoplanet Diversity
DFG SPP-1992

Characterizing exoplanets

- Models are necessary to constrain interior structures of exoplanets
- Observable parameters are very limited
- Solutions are degenerate



A cookbook for sub-Neptunian exoplanet modelling

- Which parameters lead to the biggest model uncertainties?
- What is the simplest model still yielding accurate results?
- Comparison with previous studies

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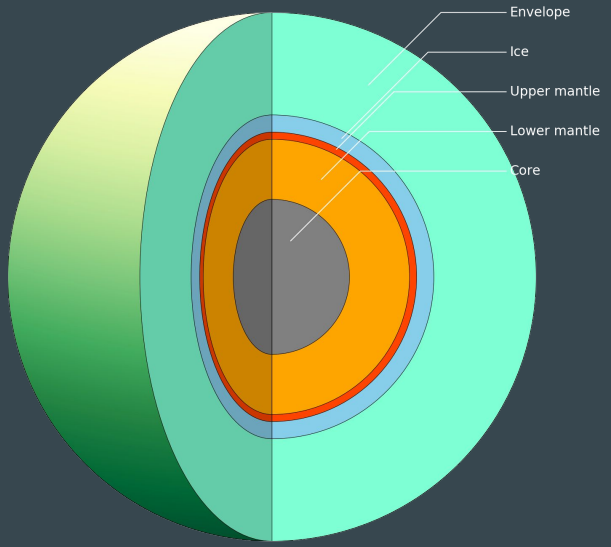
What are possible sources of model uncertainties?

- Equations of State (EoS) of each planetary layer
- Interior temperature
- Layer composition
- Atmospheric contribution
- ...



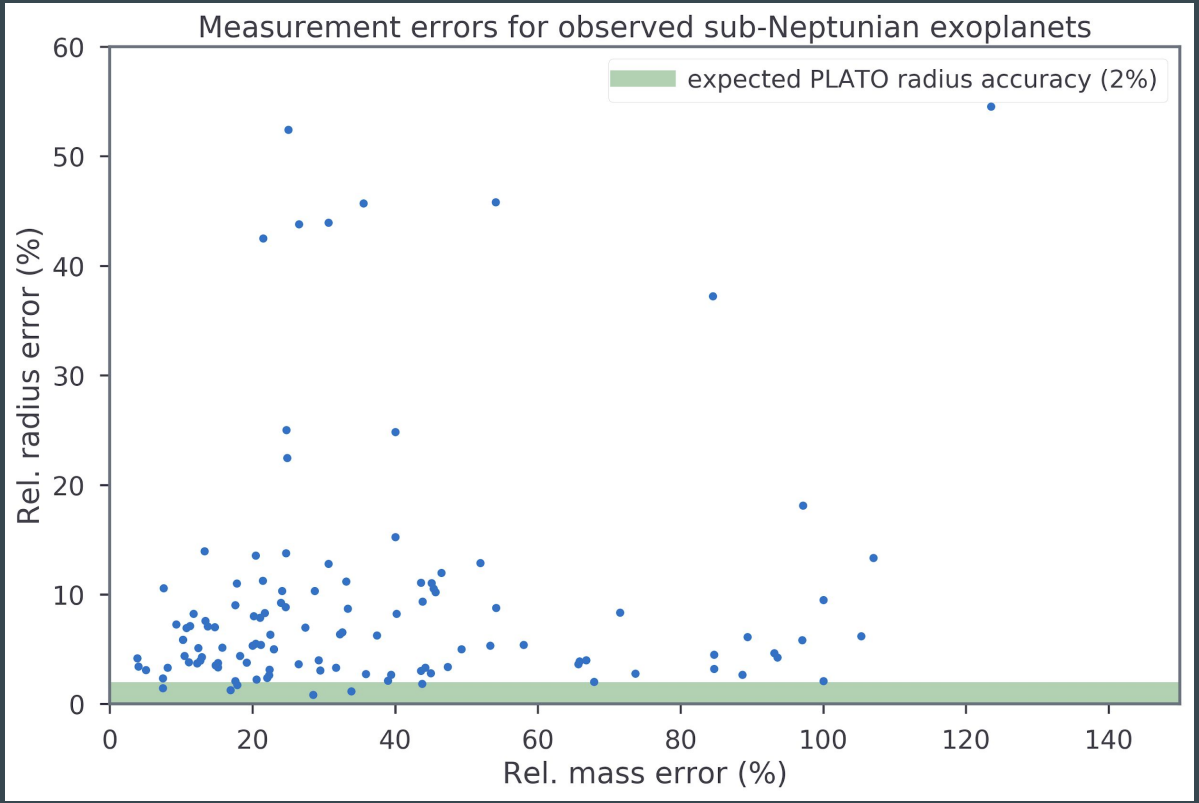
Main planetary layers:

- Iron core
- Silicate mantle
- Ice shell
- Gaseous envelope

Observational uncertainties

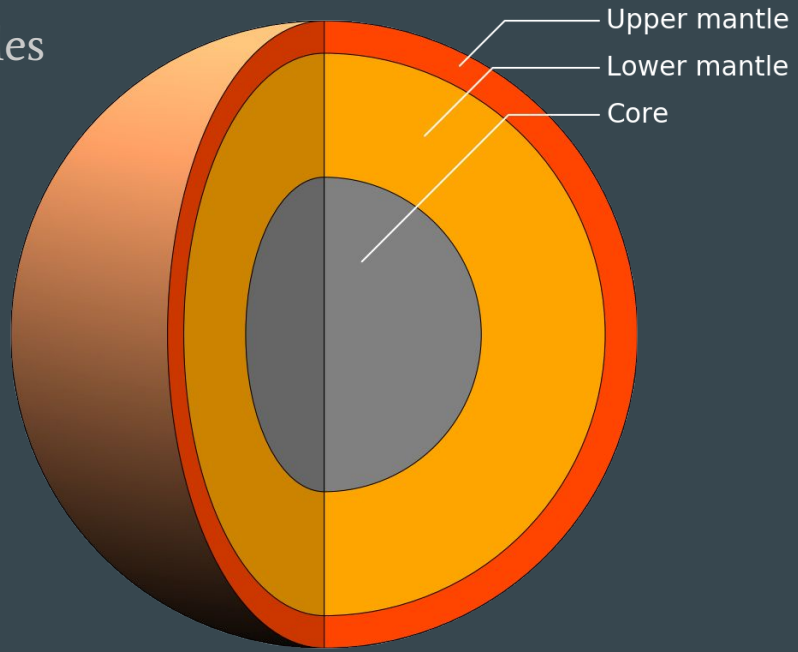
Radius accuracy science goals:
2% (PLATO 2.0)
5% (CHEOPS)

- Modelling errors smaller than the observational error are probably not discernable



Model setup

- Currently: terrestrial planets without volatiles
- Core: pure Fe (hcp)
- Lower mantle: Perovskite ($MgSiO_3$)
- Upper mantle: Olivine (Mg_2SiO_4)



- Pressure dependent phase transition Olivine→Perovskite
- Mass range: 0.5 - 20 $M_\oplus$

Equations of state

Fe core:

Reference	*EoS used*
Dewaele et al. 2006	Birch-Murnaghan 3rd order (BM3)
Sotin et al. 2007	BM3
Sotin et al. 2010	BM3
Wagner 2014 (PhD thesis)	BM3
Dewaele et al. 2006	Vinet
Valencia et al. 2006	Vinet
Seager et al. 2007	Vinet
Wagner et al. 2011	mod. Rydberg
Wagner 2014 (PhD thesis)	Keane

$MgSiO_3$ (pv) mantle:

Reference	*EoS used*
Sotin et al. 2007	BM3
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Wagner 2014 (PhD thesis)	BM3
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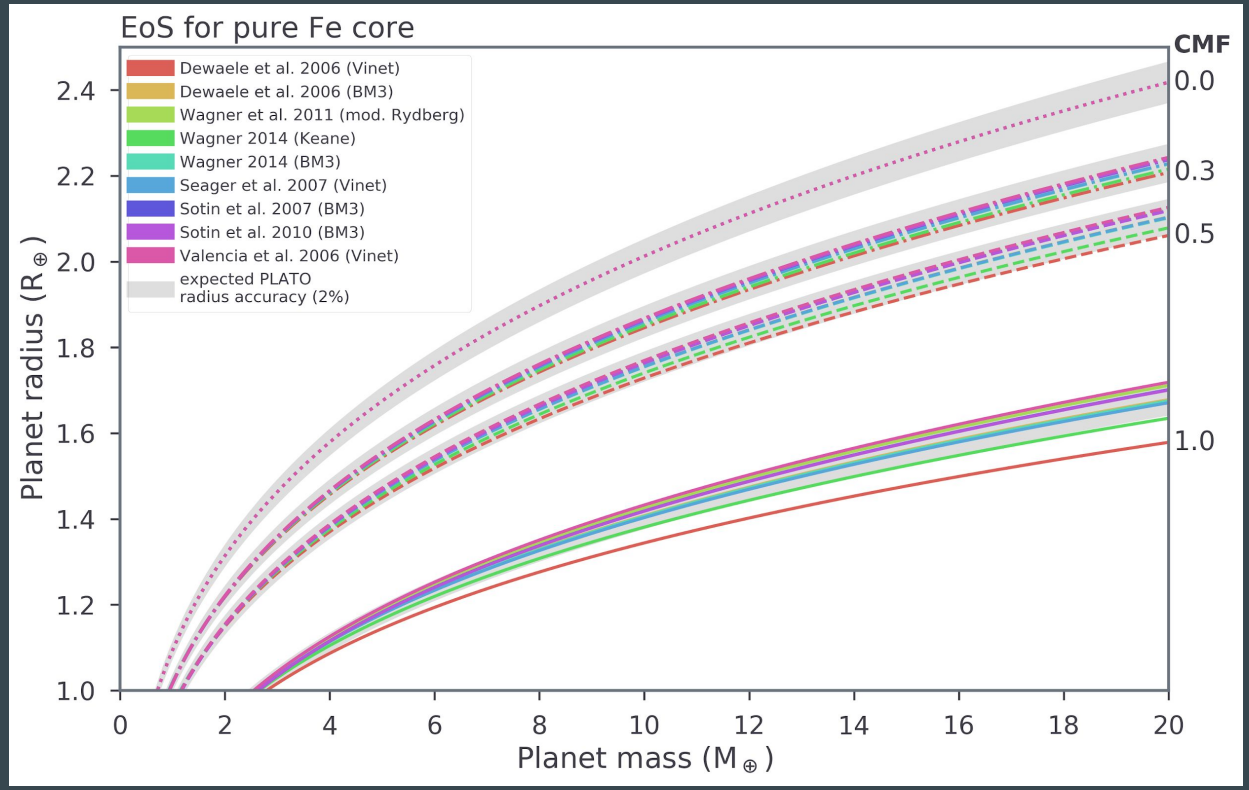
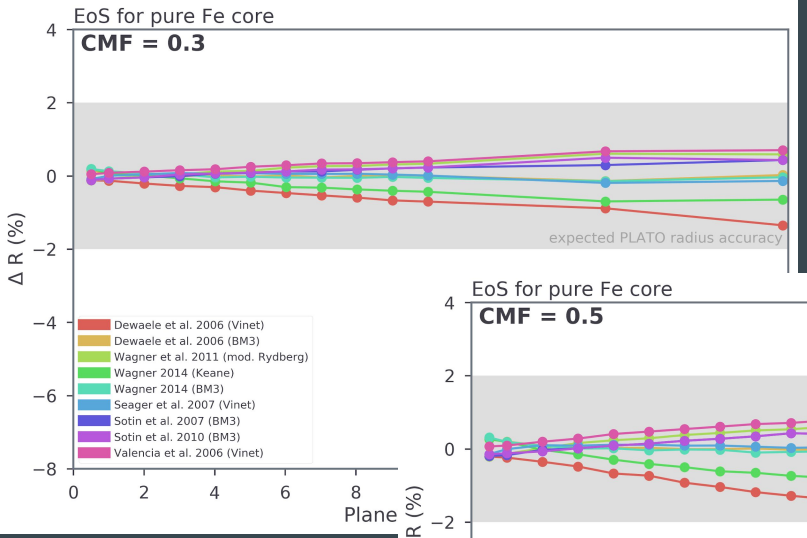
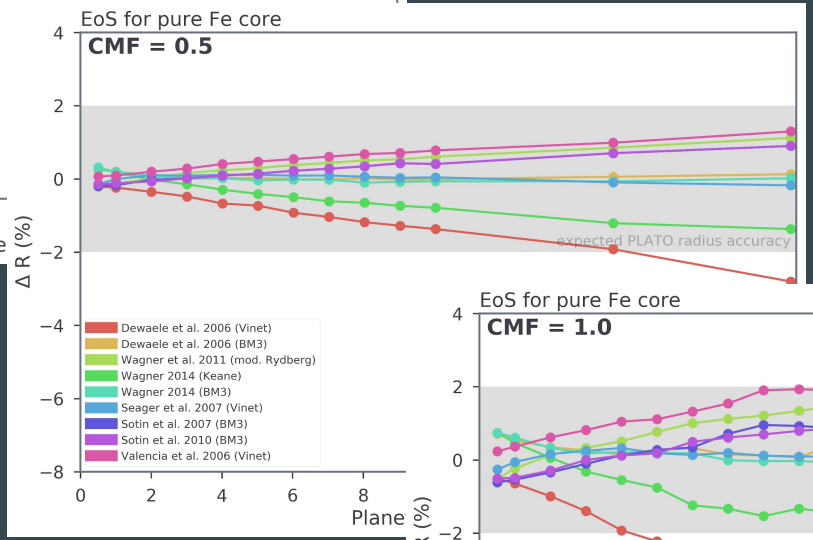
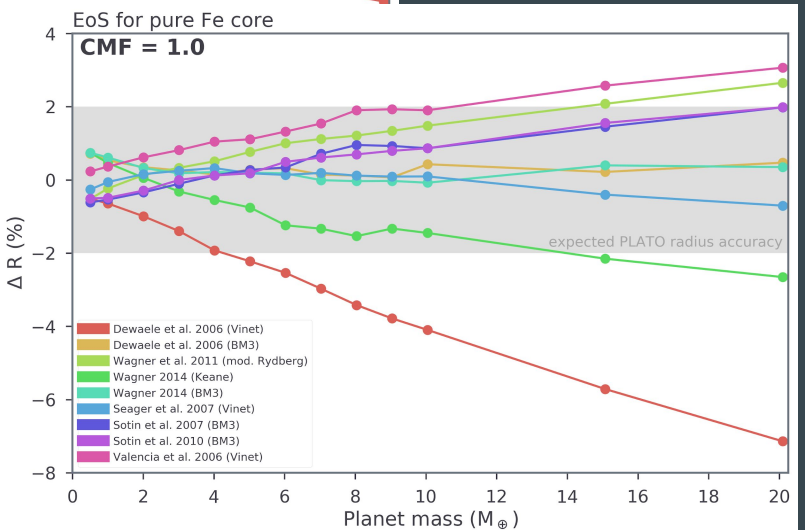
Varying EoS for the core

- errors for pure iron planets are above observational limits
- effects of EoS diminish rapidly with smaller core sizes







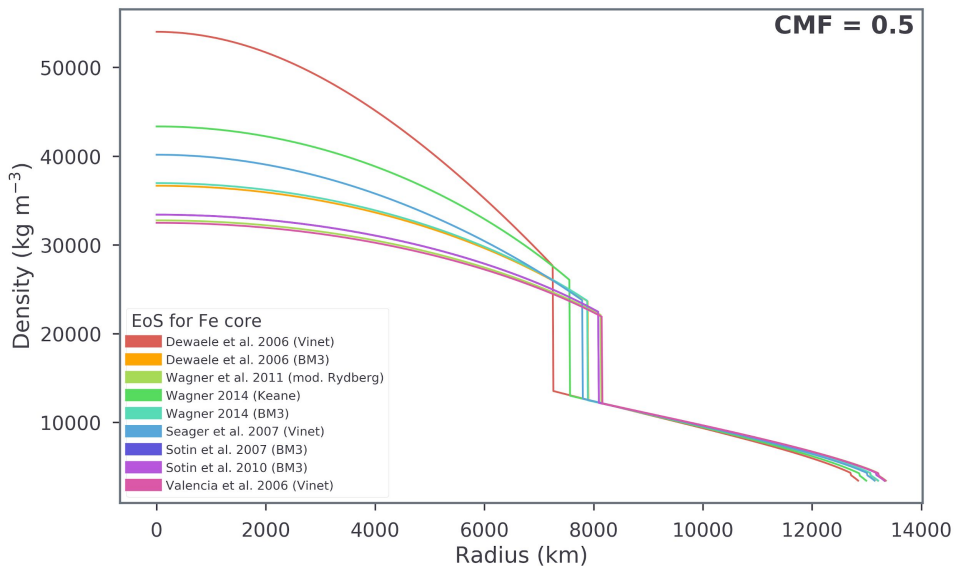


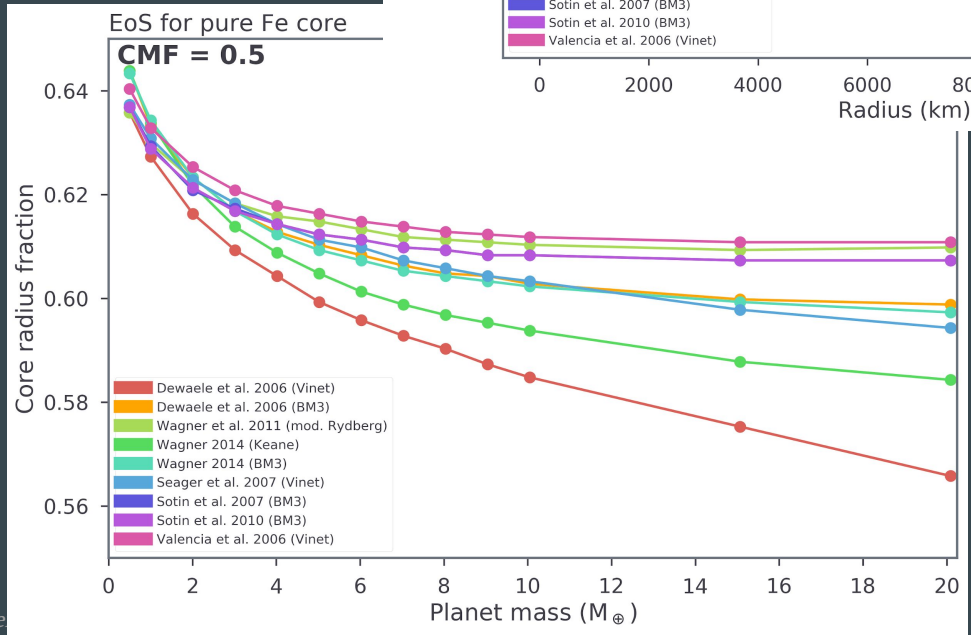
Relative errors

- highest errors for high density, high mass planets
- other cases: errors within observational constraints

Density profiles

- Significant differences in density profiles
- Interior structure still relatively well constrained

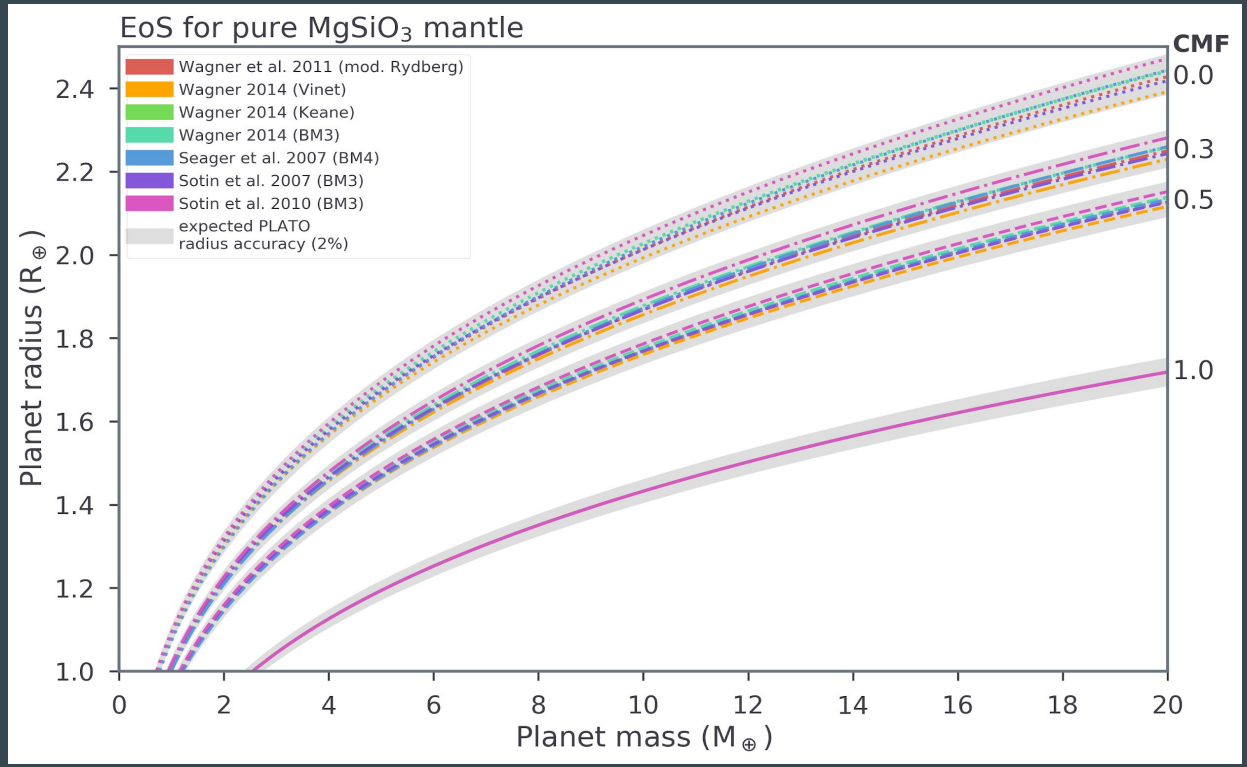




20 $M_\oplus$

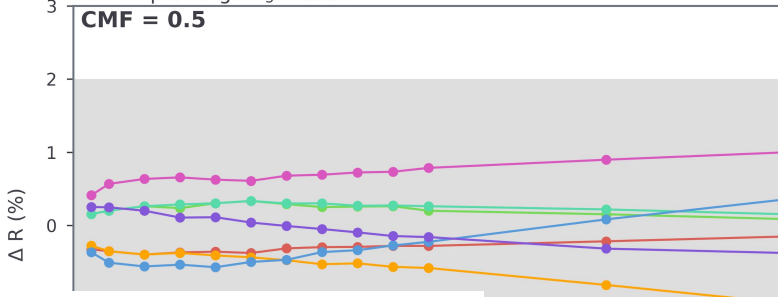
Varying EoS for the mantle

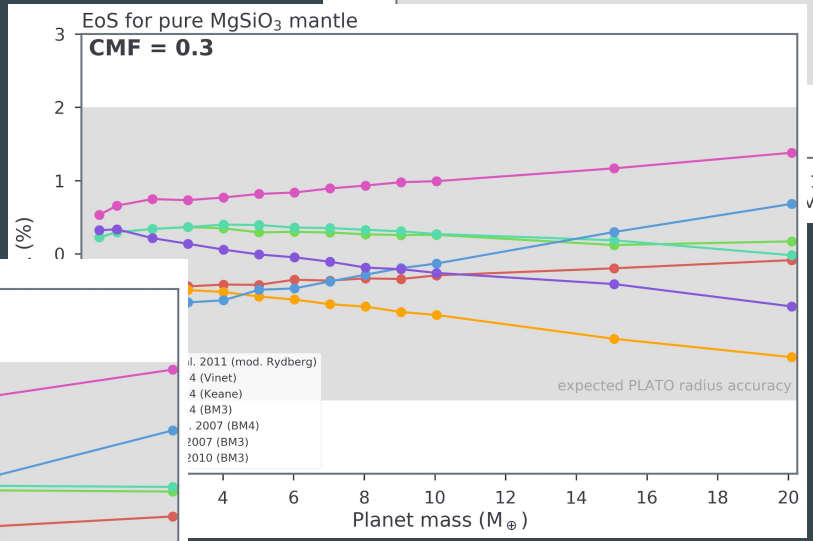
- all errors within observational limits
- effect of mantle EoS smaller than effect of core EoS

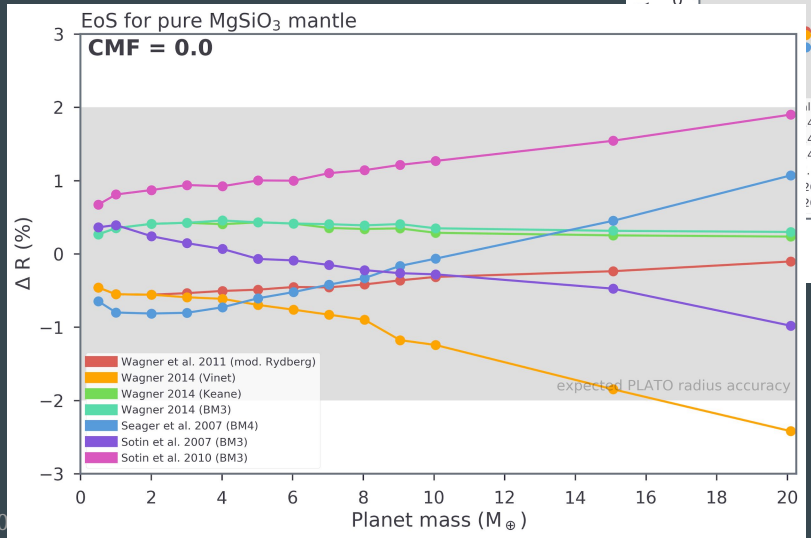


Relative errors

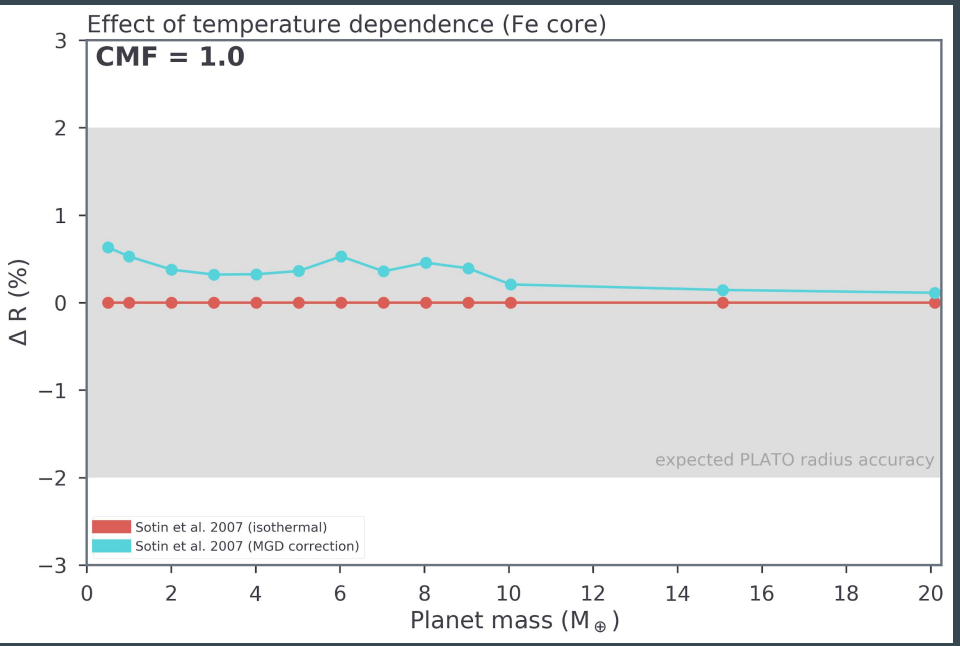
- max ~2% error in radius from mantle EoS

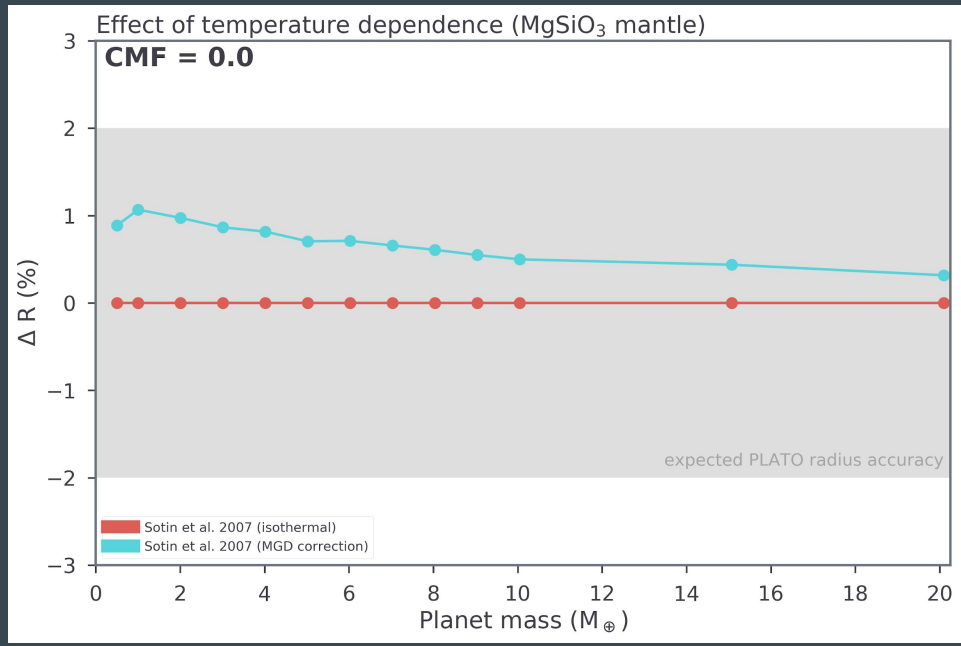






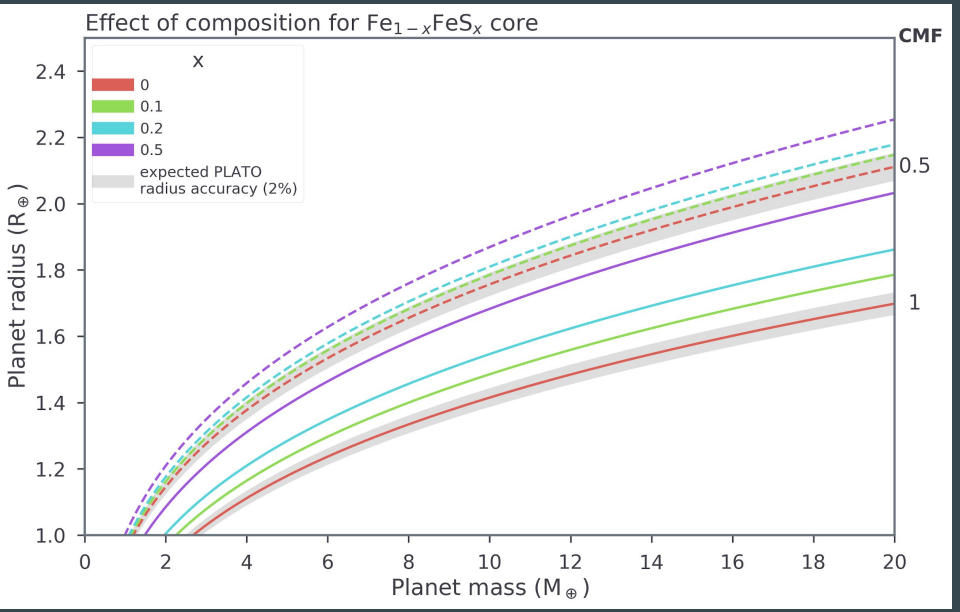
Effect of temperature dependence

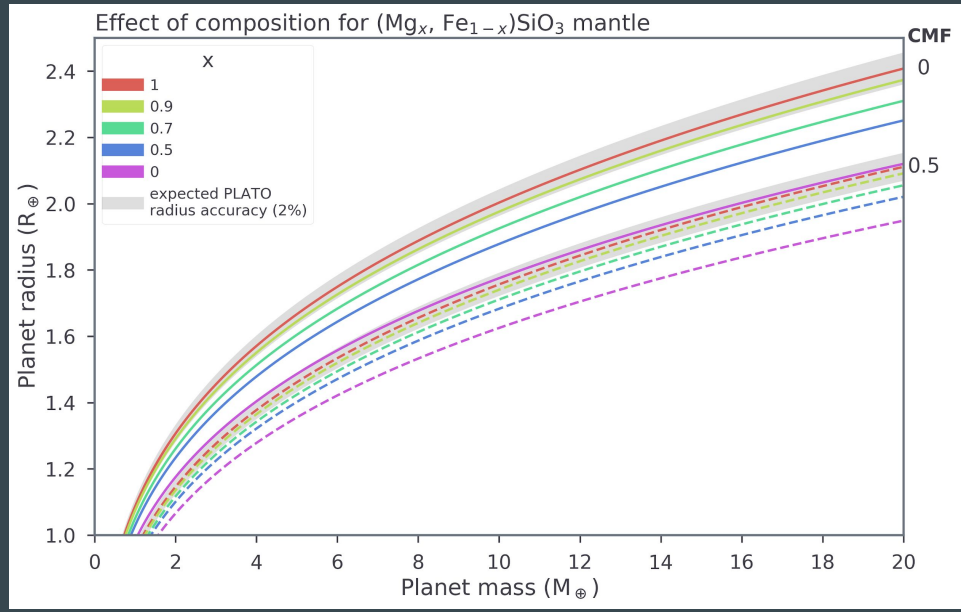




Effect of temperature correction negligible to radius contribution

Effect of composition





Impact of mineral composition is extremely significant!

Conclusions

Temperature dependence:	negligible
Silicate EoS:	probably negligible
Iron EoS:	probably important for high mass, high density planets
Composition:	very important! Small composition changes can result in huge radius changes.
Ices / Atmosphere	*?, but probably quite important*

Conclusions

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Simple isothermal EoS for the solid interior are probably sufficiently accurate forexoplanet interior characterization, because mineral composition is hard to constrain